

**Kentucky Goat and Sheep Summit**  
**May 15 – 16, 2006**  
**Elizabethtown, Kentucky**

**What are some of the most important limiting factors facing the (local, state, national) sheep/goat industries today?**

FSA payments  
Encouraging increased lamb/goat production  
Mentors  
Sharing information  
Lack of funding  
Predator control  
Access to quality replacement stock  
Consumer education  
Tail docking  
Carcass grades training  
Co-grazing with cattle  
Unified approach  
Lack of university classes  
Shearing locations  
Lack of processors  
Pressure from other agriculture  
Type of animals produced  
Lack of information (research)  
Foot problems  
Forages  
Parasites  
Genetics that fit Kentucky  
Record keeping systems  
Master Goat/Sheep Herdsman Program – new producers  
Small and large production systems  
Group purchasing – inputs  
Lack of facilities  
Herd/flock management  
Input costs  
Animal identification – tagging  
Consistent grading  
Participation in sales  
Lack of knowledgeable veterinarians  
Fill vacant positions  
Marketing – lack of buyers, wool, shearers  
Health – feet, parasites, limited products  
Information – correct, timely

**Consensus top five most important issues/limiting factors:**

1. Master Herdsman Program for goat/sheep producers
2. Marketing
3. Flock/herd health
4. Correct/timely information
5. Unified approach

**What are we (sheep/goat industry, producers, Extension, etc.) doing best on the top five issues/limiting factors?**

Relationships with other states  
Goat marketing excellent – KDA  
Scharko's work  
Goat calendar  
Hutchens' newsletter  
Kentucky Goat News  
Regional association meetings  
Summit – cooperative efforts  
Buck performance  
Ewe Profit  
Sheep Profit Day  
Third Thursday Goat Days  
Lambing School  
Tel-O-Auctions, Graded Sales  
Wool pool  
Shearing School  
Extension publications/offices  
Cooperative meetings – associations  
Master Herdsman planning has begun  
Value-added processing – KDA  
Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy – goat/sheep grants  
Microscopes, FAMACHA cost-share  
Field days  
Resources are available (takes some looking)  
Farm Bureau Sheep and Goat Committee  
Gil Myers – parasites

**What MORE do we need to be doing on each issue or what are our WEAKNESSES in dealing with each of these issues?**

Multi-faceted industry

Master Herdsman – need to designate a person

Lack of young producers – sheep

Research needs: parasites, diseases, foot rot, CL, pneumonia, coccidia, products

Information for 4-H, not adults

4-H Record Book

Mineral recommendations

Sheep information not in Kentucky

Continue to cooperate

Funding and resources for Master Herdsman

Regional Master Herdsman meetings

Need larger groups of good quality

Educate veterinarians on sheep and goats

E-mail newsletters

More meetings and communication between sheep and goat industries

Comprehensive educational resources

Encourage sheep in graded sales

Special vaccines for Kentucky

Agent training – Kentucky-based information

Extension publications for Kentucky

Annual research update

Joint annual meeting with breakout sessions for sheep, goats

Handbook – compile information and update

More regional information

Help in niche marketing

More marketing personnel

Breeding stock sales

Diagnostic lab low priority

More Patty Scharkos

Better distribution of information

More research funding

**Four breakout groups developed action plans for two of the top five issues.**

### **Group 1**

#### **Master Herdsman**

- Cover all aspects from novice to experienced
- Appoint coordinator
- Develop areas to be covered
- Find presenters that are relevant, interesting, and knowledgeable
- Develop curriculum
- Try in one area; use feedback to modify
- Work with regional and state groups to develop locations

#### **Unified Approach**

Work together to increase:

- Total number of producers
- Marketability of products
- Productivity
- Overall profit

Educate producers as to what buyers want at what time

### **Group 2**

#### **Marketing**

- Keep sending more information out to producers. We need to increase quality first and numbers second.
- Inform producers of the quality needed
- More information on ethnic marketing

#### **Correct/timely information**

- Weekly packet to agents – include any newsletters or hard copies
- Make a sheep calendar along the same lines as the goat calendar
- Use more e-mail
- Make it interesting, short, and visual

### **Group 3**

#### **Master Herdsman**

- Pattern like Master Cattleman beef program
- Hire coordinator
- Fund as with Kentucky Beef Network (Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy)
- Master Herdsman classes with three-ring binder
- Cover reproduction, nutrition, facilities, health, forages, marketing (meat and wool), end product (meats lab), and record keeping (some topics may require division by species)
- Every county agent to have binder in office as resource
- Charge for program

#### **Flock/herd health**

- Develop a CPH-type health program for replacement females as basis of elite female sales
- Develop autogenous vaccines for bacterial infections – CL, foot rot, bacterial pneumonia
- Annual educational forum on small ruminant health and production

### **Group 4**

#### **Marketing**

- We need an additional small ruminant specialist to promote our industries and educate producers on producing and marketing quality animals through our graded programs
- Create a directory of Kentucky goat and sheep producers who wish to market direct off the farm to ethnic consumers
- Establish a goat and sheep hotline to help connect buyers and sellers of breeding animals

#### **Flock/herd health**

- Develop a program of sheep- and goat-related continuing education for veterinarians
- Better report current goat and sheep health-related research to producers through an annual report from the University of Kentucky and Kentucky State University to the Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association and the Kentucky Goat Producers Association.
- Develop a sheep and goat advisory panel to steer sheep- and goat-related research

**Goat and sheep producers developed mission statements and action plans for their respective industries.**

## **Sheep**

### **Mission Statement**

The Kentucky sheep industry will double its numbers within the next five years; improve market opportunities; expand and encourage related production issues (hair sheep, year-round lambing, types of lambs for other markets – ethnic, companion grazing, and replacement female program); improve profit; promote health issues; and promote communication with our producers.

### **Action Plan**

- Get organizations together
- Apply for funds
- Hire coordinator/CEO to oversee both groups by the end of 2006
- Increase communication and education through a Master Herdsman program by the end of 2007

## **Goats**

### **Mission Statement**

Growing the Kentucky goat industry to become a national leader through education and communication.

### **Action Plan**

- Create a full-time small ruminant development office within one year
- Use this new office to develop and promote a Master Herdsman program as a dynamic educational program that benefits existing and potential goat producers in the next three to five years
- Encourage ongoing research and demonstrations by the University of Kentucky and Kentucky State University, and better communicate results to farmers
- Continue to encourage the development of a small ruminant specialist at the University of Kentucky